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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
JUNICHIRO KIZAKI ET AL.) : Examiner: M.H. Chau
Application No.: 10/724,761) : TC/Art Unit: 2854
Filed: December 2, 2003)
For: PRINTING CONTROL METHOD)
AND APPARATUS : October 13, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop: Amendment
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION-OF-SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

The Office Action dated September 21, 2004, imposed a requirement for election between the following patentably distinct Species:

Species 1: Read on by Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-19, and directed to a printing control method/apparatus/computer program product which holds printing data in a hierarchical structure and issuing a printing job to a printer to cause the printer to print including setting means capable of setting different setting values in a lower and upper layer of the hierarchical structure and instruction means for, when the setting value different from a setting value of the upper layer is set in the lower layer, instructing the printer on a setting in the lower layer for each printing data to which the setting value is applied; and

Species 2: Read on by Claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21, and directed to a document processing method/apparatus/computer program product which processes original data having a printing format as an attribute including an attribute is given to each node to hold the original data in a tree structure and an attribute representing whether the print on only one side or two sides of a paper sheet is set as an attribute of the entire original data, an attribute representing printing on only one side or the two sides of the paper sheet is set as an attribute of each node, the attributes can be independently set, and a printing apparatus is switched in accordance with the attribute.

In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, to prosecute Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-19, directed to Species I.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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